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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 04470 191359 Z

47
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CCO-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 DPW-01

NIC-01 RSR-01 AID-20 /127 W
---------- 090279
O 191153 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8849
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
CINCPAC
USDEL FRANCE IMMEDIATE
COMUSMACV
CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4470

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS VULI PINT VS
SUBJECT: WEEKLY MR 3 SITREP - 13 - 19 MARCH 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA ON MAR 19 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0023
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SUBJECT: WEEKLY MR3 SITREP - 13 MARCH TO 19 MARCH 1973

1. AFTER VIRTUALLY COMPLETING A SERIES OF INAUGURAL CEREMONIES IN ALL MR3 AREAS UNDER RVN CONTROL, INCLUDING AN LOC, THE DEMOCRACY PARTY AND THE RVN POPULAR FRONT HAVE LAPSED INTO QUIESCENCE. THI POLITICAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEES IN THE PROVINCES REMAIN QUITE ACTIVE, HOWEVER, VISITING SCHOOLS AND VILLAGES TO EXPLAIN THE RVN VIEW OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. LIKEWISE, THE COLLECTION, UPDATING, AND IN SOME CASES THE INFLATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS IN RVN- CONTROLLED AREAS IS PROCEEDING APACE UNDER RD CADRE GUIDANCE.

2. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY ACTIVE ALSO, ENTERING VILLAGES AT NIGHT TO PROPAGANDIZE AND PROSELYTIZE, PUTTING UP NLF FLAGS, AND RECRUITING NEW CADRE FROM AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN MR3, OFTEN BY KIDNAPPING. ALL OF THIS POLITICAL PERSUASION IS BACKED UP BY THREATS OF MORE FORCE AND RENEWED ATTACKS, UNDERSCORED BY A SLIGHT BUT NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ASSASSINATIONS (10 IN MARCH TO DATE).

3. ALL MR3 HAMLETS THAT WERE RVN- CONTROLLED BEFORE THE CEASE- FIRE OFFENSIVE ARE STILL RVN- CONTROLLED; ALL MAJOR LOCS ARE OPEN TO FULL CIVILIAN TRAFFIC, EXCEPT LTL 2, WHERE MILITARY OPERATIONS AT THE XUAN LOC- PHUOC TUY BORDER HAVE DISRUPTED THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC, AND QL 13 BETWEEN LAI KHE AND CHON THANH, WHERE A CIVILIAN BUS WAS TURNED BACK BY THE VC/ NVA LAST WEEK (ALTHOUGH SMALLER VEHICLES CONTINUE TO PASS WITHOUT DIFFICULTY).

4. THE ICCS HAS HAD A QUIET WEEK, ALMOST TOO QUIET. RVN OFFICIALS ADOPTED A MUCH FRIENDLIER ATTITUDE TOWARD ICCS PERSONNEL, AND BEGAN SHOWING THEM AROUND AREAS UNDER RVN CONTROL TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE CLAIMS OF COMMUNIST CEASE- FIRE VIOLATIONS. ALL TEAMS ARE AT FULL COMPLEMENT, ALTHOUGHTHE XA MAT AND THE AN LOC TEAMS ARE NOT FUNCTIONAL DUE TO A TWO- WEEK DELAY IN THE PREPARATION OF QUARTERS AT XA MAT AND POLISH INSISTENCE ON LIVING AT AN LOC AND THE LACK OF QUARTERS THERE. SOME TEAMS ARE ACTIVELY CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS, E. G., LAM SON, CU CHI, BEN CAT; OTHERS ARE BORED, E. G. TAN AN.

5. III CORPS CG LTG MINH HAS INFORMED US THAT PHUOC TUY PROVINCE CHIEF LT. COL. TRAN DINH BICH IS DEFINITELY BEING REPLACED ON ACCOUNT OF HIS CORRUPTION. PRESIDENT THIEU IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING 3 POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS. THIS AUGURS WELL FOR INCREASED ANTI-
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CORRUPTION MEASURES AS PART OF THE RVN' S EFFORT TO COMPETE POLITICALLY

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WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

6. LTG MINH HAS ALSO INFORMED US OF HIS INTENTION TO RELAX CURFEW RESTRICTIONS IN SELECTED AREAS OF MR3. THESE AND OTHER POST CEASE-FIRE
MATTERS WILL BE DISCUSSED MARCH 20 AT A MEETING BETWEEN MINH AND HIS PROVINCE CHIEFS, TO WHICH THE CONSUL GENERAL HAS BEEN INVITED.

7. ARVN III CORPS REPORTS THAT ENEMY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL DURING THE 24 HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT 1600 HOURS MARCH 18. THERE WERE 25 VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS, 12 OF THEM GROUND ENGAGEMENTS AND 13 ATTACKS BY FIRE, THREE OF WHICH EXCEEDED 20 ROUNDS. THE 97 TH RANGER BATTALION OPERATING NORTHWEST OF PHUOC BINH IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE RECEIVED 60 ROUNDS OF 107 MM ROCKET FIRE WHICH CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. RACH BAP OUTPOST IN BEN CAT DISTRICT RECEIVED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF 60 AND 82 MM MORTAR ROUNDS FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK, WHICH
KILLED 3 FRIENDLY AND WOUNDED 4. VC/ NVA LOSSES WERE UNKNOWN. TONLE CHAM BASE CAMP TOOK OVER 116 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND 105 MM HOWITZER
ROUNDS, WOUNDING 5 FRIENDLY. NATIONAL POLICE IN TAN PHUOC HAMLET NORTH OF PHU CUONG IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE RECEIVED A 21- YEAR- OLD FEMALE HOI CHANH. THE 604 TH RF PLATOON KILLED 1 COMMUNIST AND CAPTURED ANOTHER DURING A GROUND ATTACK 4 KM EAST OF DUC HOA IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. THE POW IS IDENTIFIED AS BELINGING TO THE
9 TH BATTALION OF VC SUBREGION 23. DAILY CASUALTY FIGURES WERE
4 VC/ NVA KILLED, 10 FRIENDLY KILLED AND 18 WOUNDED. THERE WERE NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. WALKINSHAW
BUNKER

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TAGS: PINT, VULI, TH, VM, n/a
To: BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
EA
JAKARTA
MANILA
OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH

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SECSTATE WASHDC
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Type: TE
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